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**From:** Congresswoman Kyrsten Sinema [Congresswoman.Sinema@mail.house.gov]  
**Sent:** 5/7/2018 4:36:26 PM  
**To:** Gonzales, Kate  
**Subject:** TEST From Laundry Rooms to Small Biz Booms



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Friday, May 11, 2018

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Dear Friend,

Small businesses throughout Arizona do important work to create jobs, grow the economy, and support our communities. Last week was small business week so I want to share the story of Blockwise, an innovative manufacturer in Tempe, and why companies like them are so important to all Arizona communities.

It all started in 2000 in the Goffs' laundry room. Ed was a mechanical engineer with a knack for design. Libby was helping local companies keep books as a CPA. After years working at an engineering firm, Ed built a machine that would make small medical balloons for angioplasty procedures next to their washer and dryer. The machine was the first of its kind and, with a little tinkering, it was soon making an impact in the market for this critical medical equipment. A new company was born. The Goffs called it Blockwise.

Fast forward 18 years, and Blockwise looks a little different. They moved out of the laundry room and into Tempe offices with a manufacturing floor. Blockwise now makes unique manufacturing and testing equipment for life-saving medical devices for businesses all over the world, with showrooms in China and Germany. They serve tiny startups, some of the biggest companies on Earth, and everything in between, helping drive down the cost of health care for everyday Arizonans.

Blockwise and countless other Arizona small businesses use advanced technologies requiring specialized training to bring their products to market. Many of these companies tell me they're concerned we aren't giving Arizona's kids the skills they need to contribute to small businesses' success.

To help address this problem, I worked across the aisle to promote STEM education. Our bill, the [Developing Tomorrow's Engineering and Technical Workforce Act](#), will deliver more engineering and STEM programs to elementary and secondary schools, giving our kids the skills to be the next generation of engineers and technical workers. It's a commonsense approach to grow Arizona's economy in the long term, empower small businesses with the workforce to innovate and expand, and bring good-paying jobs to our state.

There's much more work to be done to support Arizona small businesses reaching their full potential. I will continue to work across the political divide to cut red tape, provide our workforce with the skills and education they need to drive innovation, and ensure our companies large and small can compete and win on the world stage. If you're an Arizona small business owner looking for a loan or a grant, call us for help!

I am honored to serve in Congress on behalf of Arizona families like yours. We always appreciate hearing from you on current topics and issues that are important to you. If there is an issue that concerns you, please let us know by clicking [this link](#) or by calling our Phoenix office: 602-956-2285. Be sure to stay connected through our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts, and let us know how we can be of service.

Sincerely,



Kyrsten

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